

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting images from a producer device to a consumer device, comprising at the producer device:

determining that a digital bitmap image is larger in size than a size threshold;

upon determining that the digital bitmap image is larger in size than the size threshold, converting the digital bitmap image to an analog image; and

sending the analog image to the consumer device via an analog interface rather than sending the digital bitmap image to the consumer device via a digital interface.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising sending a control message to the consumer device to switch from a digital input to an analog input to receive the analog image.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising sending a control message to the consumer device to switch from the analog input back to the digital input to receive digital images after the analog image has been sent.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the digital input comprises an IEEE 1394 digital input.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the control message comprises an audio video control (AVC) command.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the control messages comprise audio video control (AVC) commands.

7: (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises a graphical user interface (GUI) image.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises a television program guide image.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the consumer device comprises a digital television.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the producer device comprises a television set-top box.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising sending the digital bitmap image to a digital input in the consumer device when the digital bitmap image is smaller than the threshold.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the digital images are sent using EIA775a protocol over an IEEE 1394 digital connection.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the analog image is sent as one of an NTSC and PAL format analog image.

14. (Original) An electronic storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out method according to claim 1.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting images from a producer device to a consumer device, comprising at the producer device:

determining if a digital bitmap image is larger in size than a threshold and if the digital bitmap image is larger is size than the threshold:

converting the digital bitmap image to an analog image;

sending a control message as an audio video control (AVC) command to the consumer device to

switch from a digital input to an analog input to receive the analog image;
sending the analog image to the consumer device's analog input as an overlay on an analog television signal; and

if the digital bitmap image is not larger is size than the threshold:
sending the digital image using EIA775a protocol over an IEEE 1394 digital connection.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising sending a control message to the consumer device to switch from the analog input back to the digital input to receive digital images after the analog image has been sent.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises a graphical user interface (GUI) image.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises a television program guide image.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the consumer device comprises a digital television.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the producer device comprises a television set-top box.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the analog image is sent as one of an NTSC and PAL format analog image.

22. (Original) An electronic storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out method according to claim 15.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting images from a television set-top box to a

digital television, comprising at the television set-top box:

- determining if a digital bitmap image is larger in size than a threshold and if the digital bitmap image is larger is size than the threshold:

- converting the digital bitmap image to an analog image;

- sending a control message as an audio video control (AVC) command to the digital television to switch from a digital input to an analog input to receive the analog image;

- sending the analog image to the digital television via the analog input; and

- if the digital bitmap image is not larger is size than the threshold:

- sending the digital image using EIA775a protocol over an IEEE 1394 digital connection.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises one of a graphical user interface (GUI) image and a television program guide image.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the analog image is sent as one of an NTSC and PAL format analog image.

26. (Original) A producer device, comprising:

- means for receiving digital content containing a bitmap image;

- means for determining a size of the bitmap image;

- means for converting the bitmap image to an analog representation in the event the size of the bitmap image exceeds a threshold;

- a digital output circuit for sending digital information to a consumer device; and

- an analog output circuit for sending the analog representation to the consumer device.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising means for sending a control message to the consumer device to switch from a digital input to an analog input to receive the analog representation.

28. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the digital output circuit comprises

an IEEE 1394 digital interface.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the control message comprises an audio video control (AVC) command.

30. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises one of a graphical user interface (GUI) image and a television program guide image.

31. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the consumer device comprises a digital television.

32. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the producer device comprises a television set-top box.

33. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising sending digital bitmap images to a digital input in the consumer device when the digital bitmap images are smaller than the threshold.

34. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the digital images are sent using EIA775a protocol over an IEEE 1394 digital connection.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the analog image is sent as one of an NTSC and PAL format analog representation.

36. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the means for determining the size comprises a programmed processor.

37. (New) A method of transmitting images from a producer device to a consumer device, comprising at the producer device:

determining that a digital bitmap image is larger in size than a size threshold, wherein the threshold is established as approximately a bitmap image size that results in visibly noticeable delays in displaying the bitmap image if the bitmap image is delivered via a digital interface from the producer device;

upon determining that the digital bitmap image is larger in size than the size threshold:

converting the digital bitmap image to an analog image; and

sending the analog image to the consumer device via an analog interface rather than sending the digital bitmap image to the consumer device via a digital interface.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, further comprising sending a control message to the consumer device to switch from a digital input to an analog input to receive the analog image.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, further comprising sending a control message to the consumer device to switch from the analog input back to the digital input to receive digital images after the analog image has been sent.

40. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the digital input comprises an IEEE 1394 digital input and wherein the control message comprises an audio video control (AVC) command.

41. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the digital bitmap image comprises a graphical user interface (GUI) image.